

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant submits that the above amendments to the claims are solely made to improve the clarity and consistency of the present invention recited and are not made in view of prior art. These amendments are fully supported by the original specification and, thus, no new matter has been added.

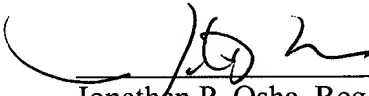
Further, in response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 12, 2003, Applicant respectfully elects Group I, which includes claims 1-9 and 27-30, drawn to a projection apparatus for imaging a pattern by a beam of projected charged particles, classified in class 250, subclass 396R, for continued prosecution.

However, Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement only with respect to Groups I and III. In particular, claims 25 and 26 have each been amended to limit the method to a method that employs the apparatus recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant believes that, with respect to Groups I and III, the Restriction Requirement is no longer proper. Consideration of amended claims 25 and 26 is respectfully requested. In addition, claims 10-24 and 31-37 are canceled in this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03850.010001).

Respectfully submitted,

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